

A SUMMARY OF FORT GLENFORD HILL TOP ENCLOSURE AND MOUND

by

Richard D. Moats
USAF Ret., ASO
13900 St. Rt. 668
Glenford, OH 43739

Introduction:

The purpose of this paper is to summarize the current knowledge base of Fort Glenford, site 33PE3, in northern Perry County, Ohio. The late James Dutcher performed the most extensive excavation to date but did not report all of his findings. This paper will encapsulate the findings of Dutcher and bring to date the current understanding of the builders of the site based on his findings and my own observations. I will also present a call for further investigations based on evidence that suggests there is much more to be discovered within the mound floor as well as inside and around the walls of the enclosure.

Although Dutcher passed away before he recorded all of his findings, he did leave artifacts, plot maps, and verbal communications. These coupled with information he disclosed to me along with my personal observations and photographs will comprise this paper. His intent was to finish his investigation and restore the mound but his untimely death curtailed this goal. Hopefully Dutcher's goal will someday come to fruition.

History:

Fort Glenford, a stone walled hill top enclosure with a stone mound located at 39 52 26.36N, 82 19 04.54W, has been noted in the archaeological record for over a century. Many individuals have made attempts to open the stone mound within the enclosure without success. James Dutcher, an amateur archaeologist, received permission from the long time and current land owner to open the mound which he did beginning June 1, 1987.

The mound imposed a daunting challenge in that it was comprised of stone ranging in all sizes up to those requiring two to four people to move. Dutcher's approach to this problem was to use a large track hoe to remove the stone to expose the mound floor.

Dutcher, along with friends and volunteers, began a somewhat systematic archaeological investigation of the mound floor and recorded the locations of significant features on a plot map. Artifacts along with section samples were collected and charcoal samples were sent to a laboratory in Florida for C-14 analysis. (see *Ohio Archaeologist*, Vol. 38, No. 3, Page 24).

Due to personal problems and dimin-

ishing resources, Dutcher discontinued excavations. I met him in 1994 and we became friends, Jim shared with me his findings, understanding, and theories of the site. He became ill and passed away in Feb. 2008. I subsequently photographed all of the site artifacts, and retrieved the plot maps and some of his papers. Unfortunately, his two field note books have not been located despite extensive searches.

Findings and Perceptions:

Dutcher's findings indicate there was a post mold pattern of a pole type structure on the mound floor consistent with a charnel house used to prepare the dead for cremation in an adjacent pit. He found evidence the structure had been burned to the ground and the stone mound built over the entire site. A carbon date of 270 B.C. was obtained from the charred remnants of this structure. This would logically indicate termination of activities in the charnel house. Adena type artifacts were found on and in the mound floor. These artifacts, along with the carbon date indicate the site was built and used by the culture we call the Adena people.

Dutcher believed, like so many other investigators, the site was not a defensive "fort" but a site of ceremony. There is no evidence to support defensive posturing or conflict other than the enclosure wall. The field inside the stone wall contains considerable flint debris suggesting habitation. Several rock shelters around the hill top were investigated by Dutcher which revealed evidence of long term occupation of the area before and after the Early Woodland period.

One of the most intriguing things Jim communicated to me was the prolific amount of ash in the sub-floor pit and stated the "layers were like a book with many pages." He described many horizons along the sides of the pit indicating multiple events. No identifiable human bone was recovered but Dutcher stated finding large amounts of "white clay like ash" which he interpreted as decomposed charred bone.

Discrepancies:

Several discrepancies emerged as I worked with Dutcher's site material, read the publication of 1988 and recalled what he told me about the site. A minor error is in recording the compass heading on one of the mound floor plots. This does not cause any conflict in what he reported. A

more perplexing issue is he stated in his 1988 paper that the post molds forming the structure walls were paired. But on the plot map they are recorded as not paired but evenly spaced indicating Early Adena construction.

For reasons known only to him, Dutcher did not report all of the findings and artifacts collected from the excavation in his 1988 paper. In fact, it appears he intentionally misdirected attention away from the site being one of burial or funerary ritual and did not make public the specific artifacts recovered from the mound floor. This may be because he intended to write a final report after he completed his investigation and was only focusing on reporting the C-14 data.

Artifacts Recovered:

Figures 1 through 9 show the artifacts recovered from the mound floor. These include classic Adena blades, flake knives, a blocked end clay pipe, copper bracelet, stone tools, pottery shards, and an engraved stone. All of this material is consistent with early to middle Adena cultural material. Analysis of the pot shards indicates the vessels ranged in size from 13 inches to 21 inches in diameter and are thick grit tempered and smooth surfaced. No artifacts other than Adena were recovered from the mound floor. Artifacts collected from outside of the mound but within the enclosure walls are labeled "GSF," Glenford Stone Fort. (Fig. 10). As expected, diagnostic flint on the site includes cultures from at least Early Archaic to Mississippian making the hill top a multi component site.

Discoveries and Interpretations:

Upon my analysis of all the artifacts, and plot maps, along with my own non-intrusive investigation of the site, I offer the following interpretations. I photographed Jim's plot maps and digitally constructed a new map with all of the features in proper relationship and with accurate compass azimuths. (Fig. 11)

Because of the even spacing of the perimeter posts and an 11 degree outward slant, this plot map is most consistent with a structure of an early to middle Adena cultural period. (Converse, 2003). The absence of any classic Hopewell artifacts on the mound floor and given the carbon date of 270 B.C. negates any probability that the Hopewell used the site before the mound was built. This does not negate

the possibility that the emerging Hopewell had an association and cultural interface with the Adena people at the site. Since the stone mound was built before florescence of the Hopewell culture and with an absence of any indications of conflict at the site, it is logical to conclude there was a peaceful termination of activities by the earlier population. I found no obvious solar or lunar alignments.

One of the artifacts excavated by Dutcher is a fragment of fired clay "platform like" pipe. I performed a digital reconstruction of the fragment by following the edge contours to their logical terminate. (Fig. 12)

One of the often overlooked features of the site is a stone feature on the north wall located at 39 52 36.00 N, 82 18 59.84 W. This was referred to as the "North Tower" in early descriptions and is indicated on several maps of the site. It is my contention that this is not a tower but another stone mound. It extended higher than it is today and was misinterpreted by early observers. (Fig. 13)

The walls of Fort Glenford have been slowly degraded by weather, animals, humans, tree roots, and stone removal over the past 2000 years. I even found evidence of explosives being used for rock quarrying on the south west side of the hill. A long-time resident of the area described seeing a "stone lintel" over the south entrance-way prior to 1970 but it has been removed. At the north end of this entry-way and about 50 feet to the east, there is a stone lined pit four feet in diameter and approximately one foot deep. (Fig. 14)

On earlier site maps an "earthen square structure" and another mound are indicated outside of the wall to the southeast. There are no such structures visible today and the terrain is not conducive to an earthen square of any appreciable size. The structure that may have been interpreted as a mound is a natural rock and earth outcrop. I did discover a large stone that is placed on top of a much larger and immovable glacially exposed outcrop. This I call the "Pointer Stone" and is located at 39 52 19.78N, 82 18 57.52W, (Fig. 15).

In 1995, Dutcher and I excavated a small mound in the area southeast of the stone wall. This small mound, at 39 52 16.72N, 82 18 54.40W, may be the mound referenced on early maps. This mound was 10 feet in diameter and 3 feet in height. The mound was comprised of burned red earth and contained no artifacts, or diagnostic material. Occasional small pieces of charcoal were noticed. Below the humus layer and on top of the original surface of the mound we found placed stones. Four sets of three stones were placed on the cardinal directions. Each set depicted what we interpreted as "faces," with two small circular stones placed above a single larger elongated stone. We hence called this the

Smiley Face mound, (Fig. 16). The field notes and photographs kept by Dutcher for this mound have not been recovered. This mound is likely associated with an earthen circle described in the following paragraph.

Eighty feet further to the southeast of the Smiley Face Mound is the remnant of an earthen circle at 39 52 15.83N, 82 18 53.06 W. Further on to the southeast there is the obvious Wilson mound located at 39 51 59.18 N and 82 18 33.06 W. These structures were first described by W.K. Moorehead. The earthen circle is only 50% intact due to cultivation. The circle is consistent with a Hopewell type circle enclosure having an interior ditch and was 140 feet in diameter. The Wilson mound was described by Moorehead as a platform type mound but upon visual examination it is my opinion, as well as that of James Hahn who performed a partial excavation of the mound in 1980, it is an effigy type mound depicting a standing bear or similar animal facing to the east. Hahn's investigation yielded several classic Hopewell type blades. No carbon dating has ever been performed on the circle enclosure or the Wilson mound. Moorehead discontinued excavation of the Wilson Mound because of the "profusion of ash" that inhibited digging and did not reach the bottom of the mound floor. (Ohio Archaeological and Historical Report Vol. 7) Analysis of an aerial plot of this set of features, the stone mound inside the fort, the Pointer Stone, the Smiley Face Mound, the southeast edge of the earthen circle, and the center point of the Wilson Mound are all in straight line alignment. (Fig. 17)

Call For Further Investigations:

Dutcher provided some good evidence with the recovery of artifacts and a valid C-14 date for termination of the site of 270 B.C. However, he did not excavate to the original occupation layer of the mound floor or the bottom of the crematory pit. He did not trench the perimeter of the mound to determine if there was an earthen circular enclosure which provided the "footprint" for the subsequent mound. We do not have a date for construction of the stone wall. To my knowledge there has never been a sub-surface survey done of the open field within the stone walls. We do not have a C-14 date for the Wilson mound or the earthen circle. This is critical information needed for understanding these sites.

It is my contention, by using minimal intrusive techniques; it is possible to retrieve datable carbon from these key locations. A core sample through the edge of the crematory pit could provide an accurate sequence of event dates from beginning to end. It is also reasonable to do a sub-surface survey of the Fort's interior using Geophysical Survey, Ground Penetrating Radar, and other non-intrusive techniques. Discovery of sub-surface structures, dwelling sites, or unknown features

would add significantly to the record of Fort Glenford.

Another location of particular interest should be a large collapsed rock overhang immediately outside the east stone wall at Lat. 39.873626, Lon. 82.315866. Upon observation of the size of this large monolith, I suggest that it was a large rock shelter and may have collapsed during Adena occupation. Excavation beneath this single stone could produce great understanding into the history of Fort Glenford.

A Proposed Goal:

The sites and features I have discussed are of significant importance to the pre-history of Ohio. They rival many other well-preserved and protected sites in the state. The features of and surrounding Fort Glenford need to be investigated, restored, and preserved. It is not unreasonable to expect a completion of archaeology to be performed on the stone mound floor and the mound subsequently restored to its original configuration. Once the mound is restored, it is highly unlikely it will ever be open again. Archaeology, to our current fullest capacity, must be performed now lest the opportunity and information is lost.

Acknowledgement:

Special thanks to Rev. David Heiser, Glenford for assisting in retrieval of artifacts and papers.

References:

- Dutcher, J.
1988 *C-14 Dating Results From the Glenford Stone Mound Site*
#33-PE-3
- Converse, R.N.
2003 *The Archaeology of Ohio*
- Moorehead, W.K.
Ohio Archaeological and Historical Report, Vol. 7.



Figure 01 (Moats) Adena Blades from the Glenford Stone Mound

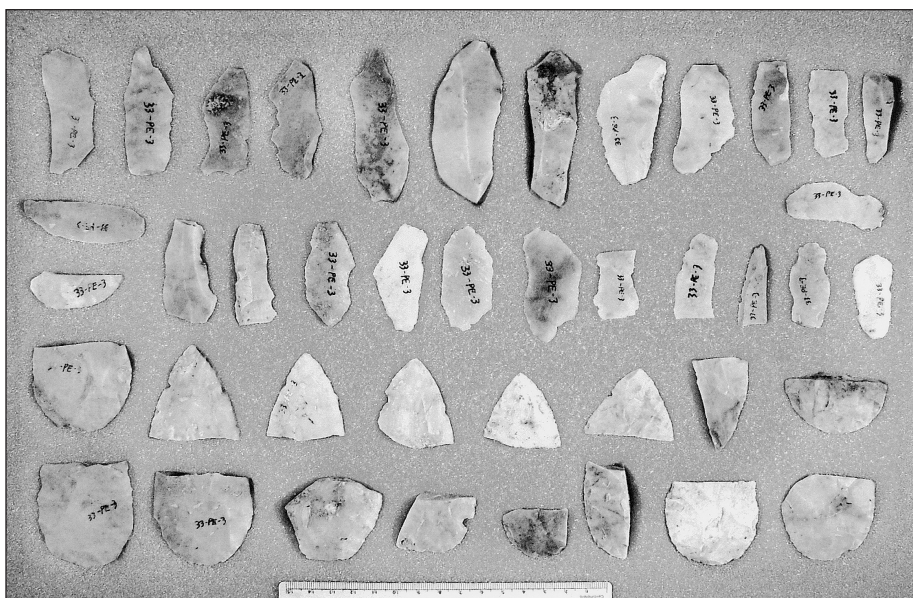


Figure 02 (Moats) Flake knives and blade fragments



Figure 03 (Moats) Blocked End Clay Pipe, three views

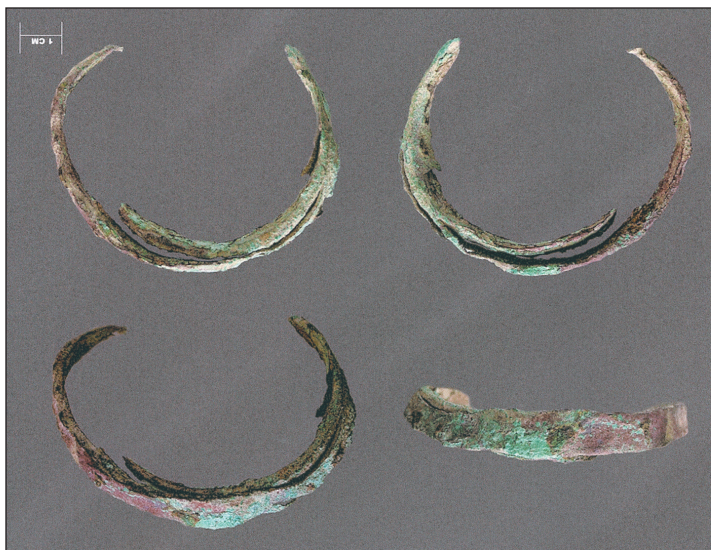


Figure 04 (Moats) Copper Bracelet, four views



Figure 05 (Moats) Stone Tools

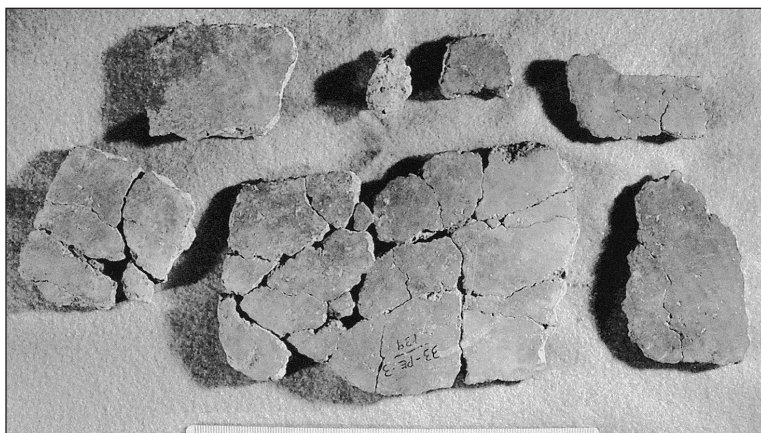


Figure 06 (Moats) Pottery Shards

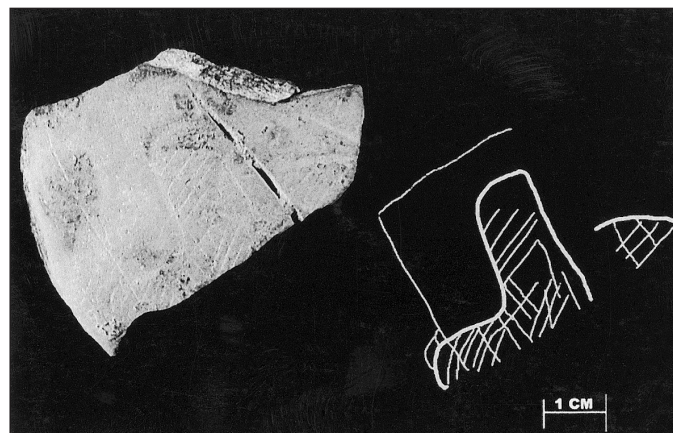


Figure 07 (Moats) Engraved Stone



Figure 08 (Moats) Adena Cache Blade

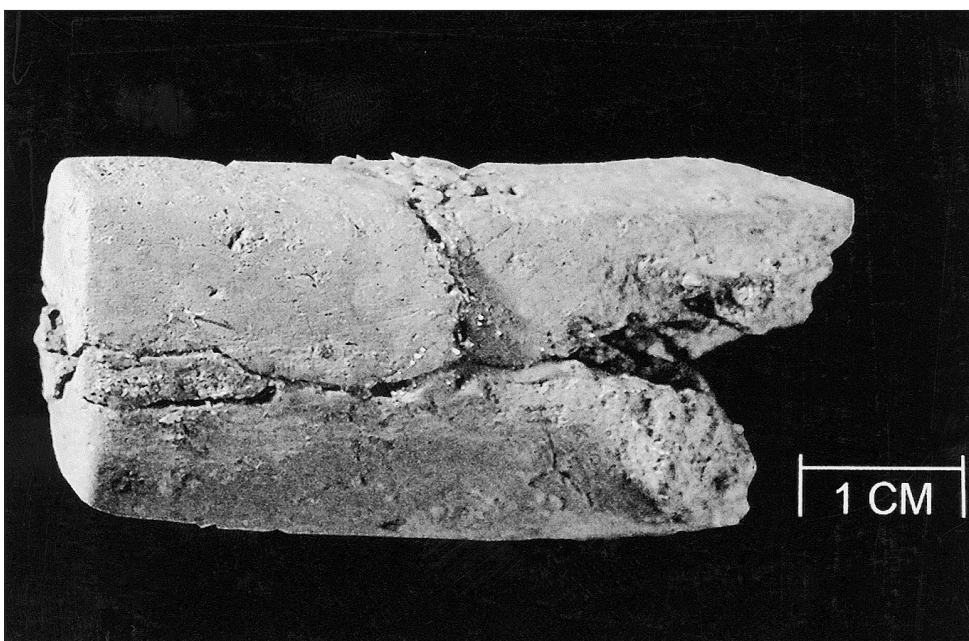


Figure 09 (Moats) Fired Clay Pipe Fragment

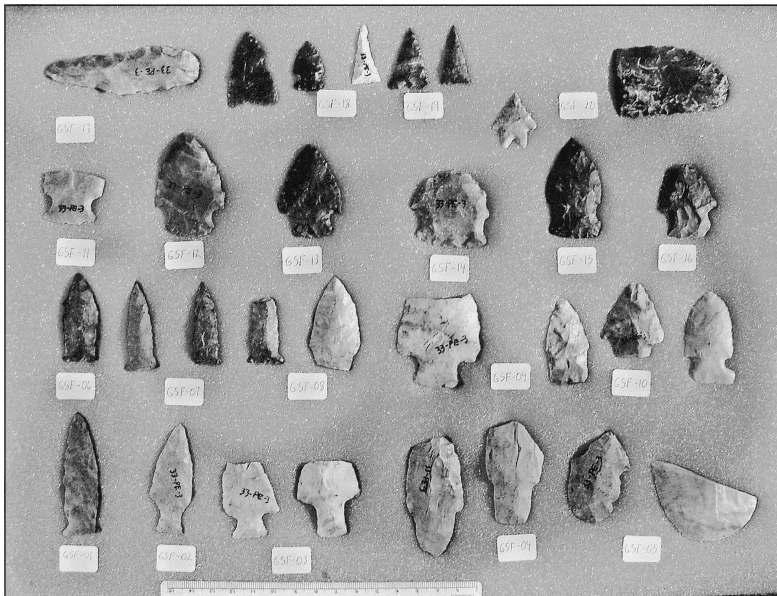


Figure 10
(Moats)
Artifacts from
within the
enclosure walls

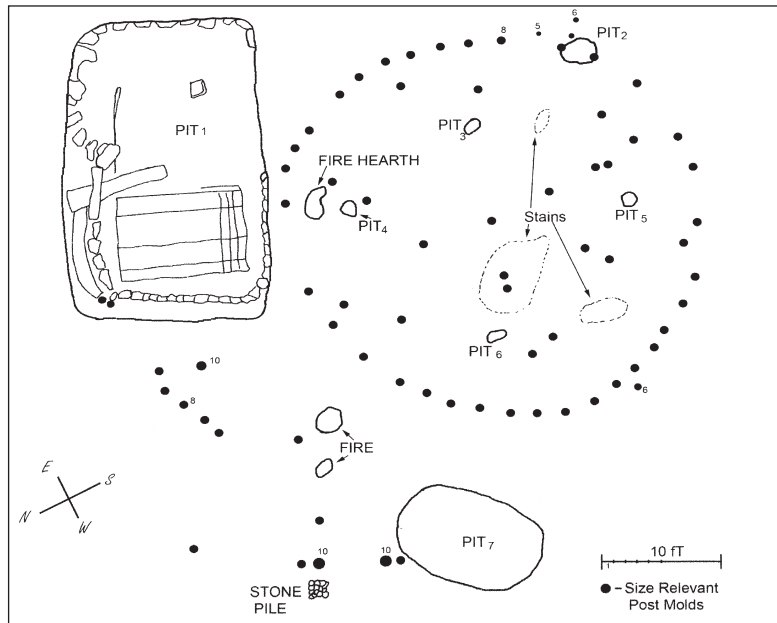


Figure 11
(Moats)
Reconstructed Plot
Map (After Dutcher)



Figure 12 (Moats) Reconstruction of Clay Pipe



Figure 13 (Moats) "North Tower," Stone Mound



Figure 14 (Moats) Stone Lined Pit



Figure 15 (Moats) Pointer Stone

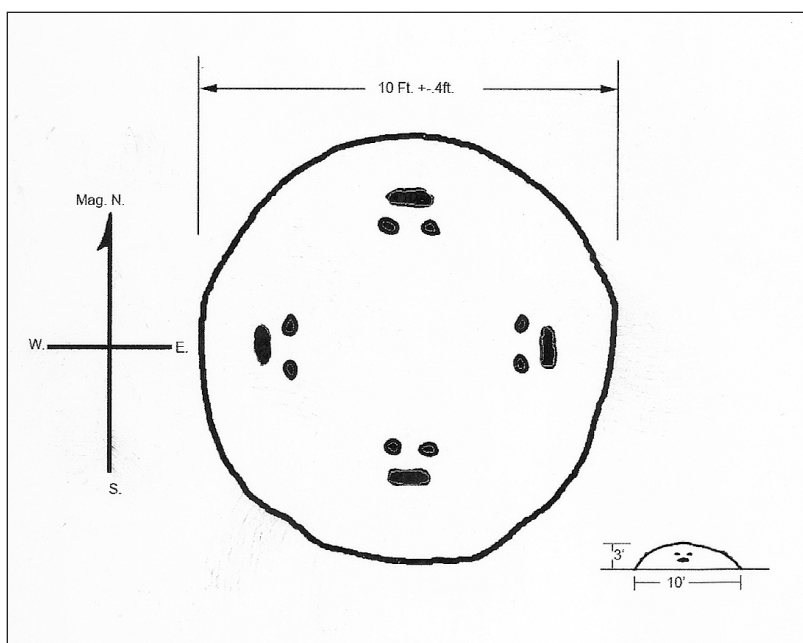


Figure 16 (Moats) Smiley Face Mound

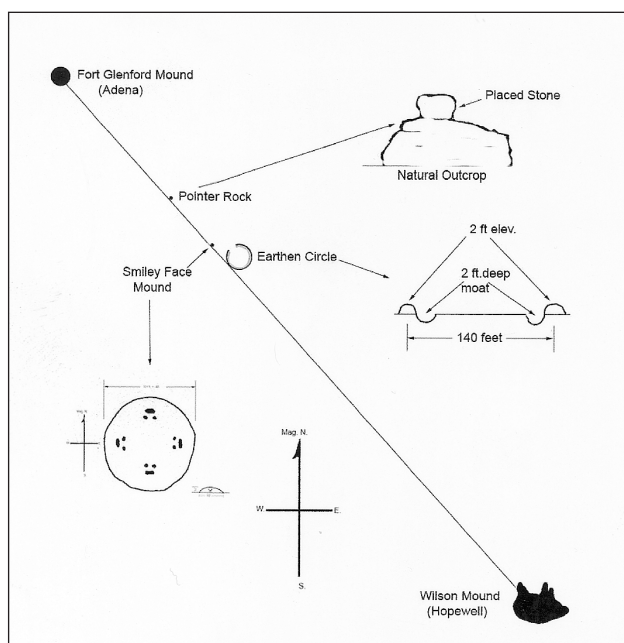


Figure 17 (Moats) Plot of Feature Alignment

IN REMEMBRANCE

Bill Horne - 1940 - 2010

One of our long time members, Bill Horne, passed away suddenly December 1, 2010 at Bethesda North Hospital in Cincinnati. Bill was an Associate Professor of Economics at Southern State Community College and is survived by his wife Connie.

Bill was an active member of our Society and attended many state and local meetings. He was especially fond of artifacts made of Nethers flint and owned a large collection of these distinctive artifacts.

We have lost a good member and a personal friend and our condolences go to his wife Connie and family.